Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 04258 081344Z ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 073

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FOR S/S-O ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINR US

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 282272

1. THANK YOU FOR SOLICITING MY VIEWS ON THE UTILITY OF CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS (CFR). I RELUCTANTLY SHARE YOUR CONCLUSION THAT THE CFR IS AT BEST ONLY OF MARGINAL UTILITY. WE HERE FIND THAT MOST OF US READ IT VERY SELDOM; WE READ OTHER PUBLICATIONS, SUCH AS THE WIRELESS FILE, WITH MUCH GREATER REGULARITY AND ATTENTION BECAUSE WE LEARN MORE FROM THEM.

- 2. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A ROLE TO PLAY FOR A PUBLICATION SUCH AS THE CFR. I THINK ITS SHORTCOMINGS LIE PARTIALLY IN HOW IT IS PREPARED. I HAVE NOT BEEN IMPRESSED, FRANKLY, WITH THE WAY IT IS WRITTEN. WE HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE VARIOUS BUREAUS ARE PUTTING ONLY THE MOST ELEMENTAL INFORMATION IN THEIR ARTICLES AND THAT THEY THEREFORE CONTAIN VERY LITTLE INFORMATION BEYOND THAT WE CAN OBTAIN FROM NEWSPAPERS.
- 3. ALSO, SOME OF THE WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS WRITTEN BY CIA SEEM TO BE DONE BETTER. UNCLASSIFIED

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4. I DO NOT HAVE ANY EASY ANSWER FOR YOU. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIFFICULT TO GET THE BUREAUS IN WASHINGTON TO FOCUS ON A WIDE READERSHIP IN THE FIELD. IF YOU CAN SUCCEED IN GETTING THEM TO DO THAT, YOU WILL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING WHICH MANY ILLUSTRIOUS PREDECESSORS FAILED TO DO. WE WISH YOU LUCK.

KAISER		
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

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